

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ED PACE

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, Ed Pace, on an occasion when he and his business have received the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

His business, Lake City Trucks, is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has grown from two locations to one of the largest International truck dealers in North America today. His entrepreneurial leadership has helped Lake City Trucks to expand to 11 locations across three states with 305 employees in Utah, Idaho and Oregon. Ed began his career with International Harvester in 1971 and served in several capacities before purchasing his first International dealership in 1991.

Ed has achieved recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. As an industry leader, Ed has held numerous positions of responsibility in organizations, including former chairman of the International Dealer Council and former co-chair of the International Dealer Development and Systems Board. He is active in his community, where he supports a variety of charities, including the Barth Syndrome Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Utah and Idaho, Toys for Tots, the Christmas Tree Auction and the Food Banks of Utah and Idaho.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Ed Pace for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF SUSAN MANHEIMER ON BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate San Mateo, California, Police Chief Susan Manheimer on becoming the first woman President of the California Police Chiefs Association, which boasts 338 of California's top cops in its membership. The Chiefs Association was founded in 1966, and its membership represents municipal districts containing 78 percent of the state's residents.

Chief Manheimer received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management from

Saint Mary's College in Moraga and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. From 1983 to 1984, Manheimer was a broadcast journalist for KCBS radio.

Before being named the top cop in the City of San Mateo, Chief Manheimer served 16 years with the San Francisco Police Department from 1984–2000, where she did robbery decoy work, gang and violent-crime suppression. Her last assignment was as the Captain of the Tenderloin Task Force, a tough inner-city neighborhood in San Francisco. She was among the first group of female captains and lieutenants promoted in the San Francisco Police Department. She was appointed Chief of Police for the City of San Mateo in May of 2000, and became the first woman to head the San Mateo Police Department, which was also a first in San Mateo County.

Chief Manheimer continues her commitment to neighborhood policing and has implemented many innovative programs, such as the highly successful Homeless Outreach Team and the Adopt-a-School program. She has also led the way in forming creative partnerships with the community and allied agencies including the Tongan Interfaith Council for Central San Mateo County, the Juvenile Hall Assessment and Diversion Center, and the countywide Gang Task Force which she helped to found. Chief Manheimer serves on many county-wide initiatives, including the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and the Domestic Violence Council.

Chief Manheimer previously served as the Acting President of the California Police Chiefs Association, is a Governor's appointee to the State Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Crime Prevention, and is on the Board of Fight Crime Invest in Kids California, the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, and the University of San Francisco Law Enforcement Leadership Institute. In 2006, Chief Manheimer was recognized by Jewish Women International as a "Woman to Watch" and in 2008, she was chosen as a Women's Hall of Fame Honoree by San Mateo County which honored her as an extraordinarily dedicated woman who has left an indelible imprint on the history of San Mateo County.

Chief Manheimer resides in San Mateo County with her husband, Michael, and adult children Sarah and Jesse. She is active in the Police Activities League, the Military Mom's Association, the San Mateo Rotary, and enjoys skiing, hiking, rowing, and service to her community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our warmest congratulations to Chief Susan Manheimer on becoming the first woman President of the California Police Chiefs Association and extend to her our gratitude for her visionary leadership to keep our neighborhoods safe, and her service to the community which strengthens California's justice system and our nation's as well.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 267, RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 267, which recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz.

As an original cosponsor of H. Res. 267, I am pleased that we are using this occasion to reflect on the many contributions Iranian Americans have made to our society. I am proud of the ethnically diverse district that I represent and greatly appreciate all that Iranian Americans have added to the rich and varied culture of New York City.

Nowruz marks the traditional Iranian New Year and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," celebrates the arrival of spring and occurs on the vernal equinox which this year will happen on Saturday, March 20th.

Through the ages Nowruz has provided the occasion for renewal and rejuvenation, displaying new resolve in settling old issues, and making new beginnings. Nowruz celebrates the core of our common humanity and our relation to Mother Nature. Although colored with vestiges of Iran's Mazdian and Zoroastrian past, Nowruz celebration is neither religious nor national in nature, nor is it an ethnic celebration. Muslim, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Baha'i, and Christian Iranians as well as many other peoples celebrate Nowruz with the same enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz and in its observance, I want to wish Iranian Americans and all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

I would like to thank Representative HONDA for introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING DANIEL ROSS MALLETT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Ross Mallette, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Ross Mallette for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carolina International Trucks (CIT) and its President, Richard D. Ryan, on the occasion of receiving the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009. CIT maintains a significant presence in the Fourth Congressional District with a dealer location in Greer, SC.

With 310 employees, CIT is one of the top truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation. In 2003, it was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to the dealer of International brand trucks who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. Including this new award recent award, CIT has now received the Circle of Excellence Award, under Richard's leadership, a total of 15 times.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

Through Richard's commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built a business that is contributing to economic growth during these challenging times. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Richard Ryan for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and nation.

HONORING BILL POWERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Bill Powers as he is honored with the prestigious Cariño Award from the California Alliance for Retired Americans. A tireless advocate for seniors', renters', workers' rights and health care for all, Bill is more than deserving of this acknowledgment. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask that all my colleagues join me in honoring his service and many remarkable accomplishments.

For over forty years, Bill Powers has advocated for the protection of the rights and lives of those whom policymakers far too often tend to forget. As a founding member of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)

and as their lead volunteer lobbyist, Bill has helped CARA grow into a strong organization that ensures seniors and health care issues are at the forefront of policymakers' minds. As the lead volunteer advocate in Sacramento, Bill has trained and mentored dozens of CARA members who have followed him into advocacy.

The Cariño Award was created to honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of life for seniors and their families. Bill is most deserving of this honor as he has continuously gone the extra mile to improve the quality of life for seniors, families and working people. After retiring from the Western Center on Law and Poverty, Bill began volunteering with the Gray Panthers, Older Women's League, AARP, and the Congress of California Seniors before becoming a founding board member with CARA.

Prior to his work with seniors' organizations, Bill had a passion for affordable housing. Before he moved to Washington, DC, Bill helped to build the first affordable housing development in Germantown, Philadelphia. While working in our nation's capital, he advocated for increased affordable housing at a national level by working for the National Housing Law Center and the Housing Assistance Council. Today, he continues his advocacy with the California Coalition for Rural Housing.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the numerous contributions made by Bill Powers during his lifetime of service to the people of our nation. Throughout his career he has worked to further causes he believes in and has touched many people's lives. As he enters the next phase in his life, and his wife Gloria; three children Anne, Susan and Steve; and six grandchildren, gather to celebrate his inspiring commitment to justice and fairness, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Bill Powers, for his public service, and to wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING NEW MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia, which is celebrating its 138th year of serving the Lord in our community. In Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, few churches have witnessed the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, but New Mount Calvary Baptist has attained that distinction. New Mount Calvary has witnessed many seminal events in our nation's history, and it has carried on from the Reconstruction Era to election of our nation's first African-American president.

A church that has kept its doors open for 138 years has blessed its families for generation after generation. The Lord calls on us to gather together as believers in his church to worship Him. The church is where we receive His Word, His blessings and His guidance. We go forth from the church to serve in our respective communities.

The members of New Mount Calvary Baptist Church are rightfully proud of how long they

have actively served in their community. I asked the House to join me in congratulating this church on its long, proud record of work in Newnan and in sending best wishes for many more important milestones in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP OF BARBARA WEINREICH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. This month, I would like to recognize a few of the phenomenal women from Central Florida who are making a distinguished contribution to my district, the great State of Florida, and to our nation as a whole. This month I would like to recognize Barbara Weinreich. Ms. Weinreich has greatly given back to our Orlando community, which has been her home for the last 49 years.

Ms. Weinreich earned both her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Masters of Education degree in Elementary Education from Cornell University. A teacher for 25 years at Eastbrook Elementary School, she is now retired from the Seminole County Public School System. Her service to the community supercedes teaching our children; she is also a leader and advocate for the Central Florida Jewish community and for inter-faith understanding and activism.

Currently, Ms. Weinreich serves on the Board of Directors and Chairs the Community Relations Committee, CRC, of the Jewish Federation. She is a member of the Holocaust Center's Board of Directors, Friends of the Jewish Pavilion's Board of Directors, Beit Hamidrash, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Judaic Studies Department at the University of Central Florida.

Madam Speaker, during Women's History Month, it is my honor to recognize Barbara's dedication to public education, as well as her devotion to the Florida Jewish community. Barbara's activism with our Florida community is something I admire and respect.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the one-size-fits-all federally controlled health care plan proposed by the Democrats as "reform" will never address the particular needs of each state the way a successful health care system must do.

It is essential that Congress allow states the flexibility to respond to local markets, institutions, demographics, and issues. At the very least a federal plan must contain opt-out provisions for states. The current plan does not include these provisions and could seriously undermine years of hard work and progress in Utah.

Utah's Governor recently sent a letter to the members of our delegation outlining some of

his concerns with the current proposal for a federal takeover of health care. In his letter, the Governor criticized the current health care legislation as not providing Utah the flexibility to create solutions and address problems in a manner best suited to Utah's unique needs.

The Utah state legislature shares the Governor's concerns about increased federal restrictions on states' abilities to regulate health care. The legislature passed a bipartisan concurrent resolution urging Congress, should it pass health reform legislation that further restricts states, to grandfather certain state laws, regulations and practices that have proven very successful in Utah.

I stand with the Utah legislature and the Governor in urging Congress to refuse to enact any legislation that imposes further restrictions on a state's ability to regulate health care in the way that best meets the needs of its citizens.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Salt Lake City, Utah, March 11, 2010.
Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Longworth Building,
Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JASON CHAFFETZ, I am writing to encourage you to resist the Obama Administration's current push to pass the White House health care reform plan as quickly as possible. As I have outlined in previous communications, the White House plan is not in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Utah.

While in Washington recently with the National Governors Association, I discovered, through discussions with my counterparts, that many are working on state-based health system reform. It quickly became clear, however, that the country's governors were not welcome to participate in the national dialog, which is an unfortunate and critical mistake. States must have the opportunity to address local needs with local solutions and to help shape the national debate.

Simply put, the White House plan does not provide Utah with the flexibility to create solutions and address problems in a manner best suited to our unique needs. A one-size-fits-all "solution" will never address the particular needs of each state and its citizens. States must be allowed flexibility to respond to local markets, institutions, demographics, and issues. At the very least, a federal plan must contain opt-out provisions for states like Utah, which has already come so far in reforming our own health care systems. The current plan does not contain these provisions and, as it stands today, could seriously impede three years of hard work and progress in Utah. These opt-out provisions are critical to states like Utah, which is leading the way in reform.

The White House plan is a rejection of the concept of federalism, which is so vital to our nation. It ignores the fact that the right way to go about reform is to allow the 50 states to be 50 laboratories of innovation. This is the only way to really learn what works and what doesn't, and for whom. For the past three years, Utah has been one of the leading states in developing health care reform, and the results are beginning to show great promise. We have had several successes, particularly with the Utah Health Exchange, and we continue to build on those successes.

Our friends in other states are also beginning to learn what works for them and what does not. If Washington leaders are serious about finding a good solution for the nation, shouldn't they be looking to these states for guidance?

If designed correctly, federal reform that creates flexibility and rewards innovation

will provide benefits well into the future. In fact, I would like nothing more than to lend my support to a meaningful bipartisan federal health reform bill. However, there appears to be little interest from the White House to create such a bill. The process the Administration is pursuing all but guarantees that no bipartisan bill will emerge. Yet, here in Utah, all of our health system reform legislation has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It can—and it should—be done. That message must be heard in Washington.

As Governor, I ask that you continue to work toward a bipartisan federal reform bill. One that recognizes the proper role of the states as laboratories and provides the support we need to be flexible in addressing our unique situations and demographics.

Thank you for your leadership and assistance with this very important issue.

Sincerely,

GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor.

UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE
H.C.R. 8 Enrolled
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL
HEALTH CARE REFORM
LONG TITLE

General Description: This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and Governor urges Congress to refuse to pass any health care legislation that contains certain provisions, urges Congress to pass health care legislation with specific provisions, and urges Congress, should it pass health reform legislation that further restricts states, to grandfather certain state laws, regulations, and practices.

Highlighted Provisions: This resolution urges Congress to refuse to enact, and the President of the United States to refuse to sign, any legislation that imposes further restrictions on any state's ability to regulate the payment and delivery of health care, imposes additional financial burden related to health care on any state, or limits the ability of consumers and businesses to create innovative models for higher quality, lower cost health care; urges Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that grants states greater flexibility under federal laws and regulations related to health care and encourages states to create health reform demonstration projects with the potential for replication elsewhere; and urges that should Congress pass, and the President sign, legislation that further restricts states in any manner, the legislation recognize states' efforts to reform health care by grandfathering any state laws, regulations, or practices intended to contain costs, improve quality, increase consumerism, or otherwise implement health system reform concepts.

Special Clauses: None.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

Whereas, people's health affects not only their sense of well being, but their capacity to contribute to their families, to their employers, and to society at large;

Whereas, the improvement and maintenance of individual health depends to a significant extent on the widespread availability of affordable, high quality health care;

Whereas, the widespread availability of affordable, high quality health care is threatened by long-term runaway spending in a system that too often delivers suboptimal care;

Whereas, runaway spending and sub-optimal care are attributable to various factors, but are perpetuated to a large extent by a third-party payer system that fails to reward individual effort to preserve and im-

prove one's health and that fails to reward delivery of the most effective care at the lowest cost;

Whereas, for many years, Utah has been laying the foundation for genuine long-term health system reform;

Whereas, this foundation includes the creation of the Utah Health Data Authority in 1990 and the subsequent collection and publication of hospital charges by facility and adjusted for risk;

Whereas, this foundation includes the establishment in 1993 of the Utah Health Information Network, a nationally recognized statewide system for processing health insurance claims at a small fraction of the cost often charged by other claims processors;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2005 requirement that the Utah Health Data Authority publish reports that compare health care facilities based on charges, quality, and safety;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2007-08 development of an all-payer database that will report payments, as opposed to charges, for entire episodes of medical care, and will ultimately allow consumers to choose from among competing providers of treatments for any particular condition based on outcomes, price, and other attributes important to the consumer;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2008-09 creation of the first statewide system in the nation for standardized electronic exchange of clinical health information across provider systems, including exchange of diagnostic test results and electronic medical record information;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2008 creation of the Health System Reform Task Force, a legislative body that has engaged consumers, employers, doctors, hospitals, and insurers in a voluntary, cooperative effort spanning two years, and involving thousands of hours, to develop a strategic plan for health system reform;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2009-10 creation of payment and delivery reform demonstration projects designed to align third-party payment structures with provider practices that result in the highest quality of care for both chronic and acute conditions;

Whereas, this foundation includes the 2009 creation of the nation's second-only health insurance exchange, a virtual marketplace where employees may enroll under a defined contribution arrangement, select from a range of plans broader than what an employer traditionally offers, and fund premiums with contributions from multiple sources;

Whereas, this foundation outlined above is the result of an iterative process of creation and refinement that has relied heavily on the input of all major stakeholders in the health care system and has been established largely on the basis of cooperation and consensus rather than compulsion;

Whereas, many of the perverse incentives that plague our health care system are rooted in federal Medicare and Medicaid payment policies, which exert a disproportionate influence on the privately funded portions of our health care system;

Whereas, federal proposals for health system reform recently considered by Congress emphasize enrollment expansion rather than cost containment, much like boarding additional passengers on an already sinking Titanic;

Whereas, those proposals include laudable authorizations for payment and delivery reform demonstration projects but otherwise largely lack significant cost containment provisions;

Whereas, those proposals include many provisions to improve quality of care but fall

short of the systemic changes needed to fully link outcomes and payment;

Whereas, states have consistently proven themselves laboratories of policy innovation, in spite of sometimes stifling federal regulatory restrictions;

Whereas, the best hope for health system reform lies with individual states, where an iterative process of experimentation, evaluation, and modification will minimize the unintended consequences of one-size-fits-all national policies and will produce results worth replicating; and

Whereas, states are in need of additional financial resources and flexibility to experiment rather than additional benefit mandates, Medicaid eligibility mandates, and rating restrictions, all of which will inevitably drive up health care spending and costs to states; Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urge Congress to refuse to enact, and the President of the United States to refuse to sign, any legislation that imposes further restrictions on any state's ability to regulate the payment and delivery of health care, imposes additional financial burden related to health care on any state, or limits the ability of consumers and businesses to create innovative models for higher quality, lower cost health care; be it further resolved, that the Legislature and the Governor urge that Congress pass, and the President sign, legislation that grants states greater flexibility under federal laws and regulations related to health care and encourages states to create health reform demonstration projects with the potential for replication elsewhere; be it further resolved, that the Legislature and the Governor urge that should Congress pass, and the President sign, legislation that further restricts states in any manner, the legislation recognize states' efforts to reform health care by grandfathering any state laws, regulations, or practices intended to contain costs, improve quality, increase consumerism, or otherwise implement health system reform concepts. Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States, and the members of Utah's Congressional delegation.

COOPER COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH AGENCY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cooper County Memorial Hospital Home Health Agency for serving their community for the past 25 years.

The CCMH Home Health Agency have been providing professional home care services to the numerous residents of Cooper County and other surrounding counties since 1985. They have provided supportive help services to the Boonville region, helping to alleviate the pain and suffering of many homebound residents. In addition, the CCMH Home Health Agency has been a friend to many of these patients and a connection to the outside world, delivering care even when the roads are treacherous and many times unsafe for travel.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating with the Cooper County Me-

morial Hospital Home Health Agency and commending them for providing care to the people of Missouri throughout the past 25 years and for the many years to come.

HONORING WILLIAM J. RYAN

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer special recognition to William J. Ryan as he announces his retirement from TD Bank, N.A.

William arrived in Maine amidst the real estate recession of the early 1990s. In a climate similar to the economic hardships the country faces today, much of the state's banking industry was in turmoil. Peoples Heritage Bank, the forerunner of TD Bank, NA, was on the verge of being closed down by the FDIC when William was named its CEO in 1990. Not only was Peoples Heritage Bank restored to solvency, but under the stewardship of Mr. Ryan and his team, over 30 banks and insurance industries in New England were brought together under the Bank North banner.

William's capacity for turning institutions on the verge of ruin into spectacular success stories has impacted Maine greatly. The Bates Mill Complex in Lewiston, once the site of the state's largest single employer, was on schedule to be torn down before the bank intervened. Today, the bank is one of Lewiston-Auburn area's largest employers, including over a thousand TD jobs filling the mill alone. Additionally, West Falmouth has been transformed into a regional commercial and business hub since a new bank operations center was opened there. Lastly, thanks to the efforts of William Ryan, Portland now boasts the corporate headquarters of one of the fifteen biggest banks in the country.

Outside his positions as a board member and Vice Chair of TD Bank Financial Group and as CEO of TD Banknorth Inc. William serves the community in a variety of civic capacities. He is a Trustee of the Libra Foundation, a group advocating the advancement of human rights, an Emeriti Trustee of Colby College in Waterville Maine and a member of the Board of Advisors at the University of New England.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Ryan on his retirement, and thanking him for his tremendous contributions to the people of Maine.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the people of the city of Lincoln in Talladega County, who are celebrating their city's 100th anniversary this year.

Lincoln, Alabama, was named after the famous American Revolutionary War figure General Benjamin Lincoln. Lincoln, who was known as the "Defender of Charleston" for his courage in battle, rose to highest ranks of the Continental Army. He had the honor from General George Washington of accepting the British surrender at the Battle of Yorktown, which ended the War of Independence.

During the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson with a force numbering more than 2,500 men camped near Lincoln. This was one of the first steps in the further development of this region, with early settlers coming from Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia.

In 1911, Lincoln was incorporated and chosen as the location for the Talladega County High school. The first mayor of this proud city was W.D. Henderson.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this important occasion for the proud citizens of Lincoln. We look forward to seeing the city continue to thrive and grow, and we congratulate local citizens and Mayor Lew Watson on their 100th anniversary.

HONORING ANNEMARIE KAUL FOR BEING AWARDED THE LIFESAVING CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor AnneMarie Kaul of Woodbury, MN, for her heroic, life saving measures on February 25th, 2009. AnneMarie is being awarded the Lifesaving Certificate of Merit from the American Red Cross and it's my honor to recognize her today.

In February of 2009 a man collapsed in the lobby of a fitness center after a game of racquetball. As a direct result of her Red Cross training, AnneMarie asked the receptionist to call 911 and proceeded to check on the man. She found no vital signs and immediately began CPR and used the automated external defibrillator at the center. AnneMarie continued with CPR efforts until the ambulance arrived and a pulse could be found. If it was not for AnneMarie's swift and heroic actions, the man would have almost certainly lost his life.

"Over a year later and because of her brave actions, AnneMarie is being presented with the highest award available from the American Red Cross. It is presented to an individual or team of individuals who have saved or sustained a life using the very skills and knowledge taught to them by the American Red Cross. According to the American Red Cross, 'this action exemplifies the highest degree of concern of one human being for another who is in distress.'

Madam Speaker, AnneMarie Kaul is a perfect example of whom this award was created to recognize. Please join with me in honoring her lifesaving efforts.

COMMENDING MEHDI MORSHED
FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBU-
TIONS TO THE STATE OF CALI-
FORNIA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, as the Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I rise today to recognize and commend the great work of Mehdi Morshed, who at the end of March is retiring from California High-Speed Rail Authority. For over 40 years, Mehdi has worked on transportation policy in various capacities in California and is widely considered a leading expert. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mehdi for over thirty years.

Mehdi Morshed was educated at the University of Washington in Seattle as a civil engineer and he received a master's degree in transportation engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Since then, he has worked to make sure that Californians have safe and accessible transportation. He worked for the California Department of Transportation in various capacities, including planning, design and construction of bridges.

He then served as the lead transportation policy staffer in the California State Senate for over 20 years. During his time at the State Senate, Mehdi was responsible for developing and enacting some of California's most ground-breaking transportation laws, policies and programs, including vehicle safety and emission standards, as well as assisting with the establishment of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, the California Transportation Commission and other local and regional commissions, transportation districts and agencies.

At the end of this month, Mehdi will be retiring as the Executive Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, a position he has held since 1998. His dedication to high-speed rail in California has resulted in the project evolving from a planning concept to a fully developed project with an 800-mile system that will link Los Angeles and the Bay Area through Central Valley, with links to Sacramento and San Diego. Mehdi was at the helm of the Authority when State proposition 1A was passed by voters in November 2008, which is a \$9 billion bond measure for the State's high-speed train system. Mehdi's ability to successfully develop California's high-speed rail system has led to California receiving \$2.5 billion in Recovery Act funding.

Madam Speaker, Mehdi Morshed has played a major role in developing and implementing California's transportation policies for over 40 years. I can assure you that his leadership will be missed in California, and his transportation projects throughout the State will be a lasting reminder of his years of service to the people of California.

OLDE DOMINION AGRICULTURAL
COMPLEX

HON. THOMAS S. P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today, I want to celebrate a vision of the future that is deeply rooted in our past.

It is fitting that the vision is being realized in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, which for centuries served as an economic engine for the Commonwealth of Virginia. That economic engine was fueled by farmers.

Agriculture remains the largest industry in Pittsylvania County and the largest industry in the commonwealth. And today, we break ground on the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex, located just outside Chatham, Virginia. What will be built on this broken ground, however, will not just be the facilities, but a future for agriculture in this region. It will be a future built on innovation and education, recreation and community connection.

The Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex will house a number of professional agricultural leadership organizations and will offer the local agricultural industry a centralized location in which to learn best practices in operations, equipment, crops, soils, animals, forestry, and renewable systems. The complex will also serve as an opportunity for local producers to enter and grow new markets. These anticipated areas of growth include aquaculture, bioenergy production, and cattle markets.

I am particularly bullish on the opportunities our farmers can seize in the area of domestic energy production. Until now, this region has been locked out of the energy market. Farmers were forced simply to be consumers of energy. We are coming to understand, however, that farmers can be producers of energy—that agricultural regions can be energy regions. Crops we grow above ground can be just as valuable as fuel buried below. In Gretna, Virginia, Piedmont BioProducts has built a refinery that turns crops into oil. And in Chatham, the Van Der Hydes are turning waste into electricity, turning a liability into an income stream that may help them survive low dairy prices.

The complex will not only serve agriculturalists, but will engage the entire local and regional community. The resources and information offered through programs will be designed to meet a variety of interests ranging from those of homeowners to backyard gardeners to children interested in attending 4-H camp. Its arena will ensure that the complex becomes a regular gathering place for the community where citizens can enjoy a vast array of shows and concerts. Whether showcasing farm equipment and livestock or entertaining with country music, the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex will be a unique asset in Pittsylvania County. It will offer the local community endless opportunities to prosper the local economy through advances in its agriculture industry and increased tourism to the region.

Of course, the complex is not just sprouting from the earth uncultivated. It is the carefully tended fruit of the labor and vision of the Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation. The foundation deserves great credit for making this a reality. The facility will allow the foundation to

further its goal "to provide extensive educational opportunities to area agricultural producers and individuals involved in agricultural-related activities" and will help the foundation realize its vision "in establishing an environment of excellence in the integration of agricultural, economic, and social systems."

It is only fitting that this complex be built in the county that ranked first in Virginia for flue-cured tobacco sales. However, the county's agricultural contributions do not stop there. Pittsylvania County has also been ranked fifth in Virginia for both corn silage and all hay production. Cattle, beef cows, and milk cows have placed Pittsylvania County in the top six producers in the commonwealth. Equine, swine, sheep, goats, horticulture, and viticulture groups are also growing industries. Additionally, Pittsylvania County benefits from the support of the surrounding counties of Bedford, Henry, Franklin, Halifax, and Campbell, which also have a high percentage of land invested in agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Virginia and Pittsylvania County first prospered because of tobacco farming. Agriculture continues to play a vital role by contributing billions of dollars to our local economy, providing fresh and wholesome products that are part of a healthy diet, and ensuring continued protection of our open spaces. I take great pride in the farming traditions of southern Virginia and believe that our farmers, supported by the community and invested with the latest innovations, can and will take a leading role in a new economic revival. Within our community we have the entrepreneurs, the innovators, the farmers. This complex will harness each of these components to open new markets and spur economic growth. This economic revival will not only keep wealth in our community, but more importantly may help keep our children in our community.

Southern Virginia is fortunate to have the vision of the Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation and the future promise of the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex.

Let me close by quoting from one of Virginia's most famous farmers, Thomas Jefferson: "Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bands." The Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex will help strengthen those bands.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE "SAKS" BILL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, every year roughly 36,500 women are violently assaulted in the workplace and yet their only remedy is workers compensation. In an effort to protect the rights of victims of workplace violence, I am reintroducing a bill to protect the civil rights of victims of gender-motivated violence. This legislation is intended to prevent employers from invoking workers compensation when employer negligence results in sexual assault and rape of an employee. This important bill will allow employees to sue their

employers in the case of a gender-motivated crime of violence rather than be subject to the exclusive remedy of workers compensation.

Workers compensation systems were designed to encourage employers to create accident-free workplaces and provide a means for employees injured during the course of employment to receive payment for medical expenses and lost wages. They were not created to shield employers from suit when their own negligence led to violence against employees. When rape occurs on the job, employers should not be able to hide behind a system designed to compensate for job-related accidents. Rape is not an accident and should not be treated as an everyday occurrence on the job. Under my bill victims of gender-motivated violence at work can hold employers liable for negligence through a federal civil rights cause of action that is not subject to state workers compensation law.

This bill will encourage employers to create a job environment free of violent sexual assault and rape, because it is tragic when rape is considered all in a day's work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF'S MEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM AND PLAYERS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's (UAPB) men's basketball coaches and players for their first ever National College Athletics Association (NCAA) Tournament win in the history of the school's program.

On March 16, 2010, the UAPB Golden Lions defeated the Winthrop Eagles 61–44 at University of Dayton Arena in the opening-round game of the 2010 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. The win also marks the first NCAA Tournament win for a team from the Southwestern Athletic Conference in 17 years.

As the No. 16 seed in the South Regional bracket, the UAPB Golden Lions now face Duke University, the No. 1 seed, in Jacksonville, Florida, on March 19.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is an extraordinary institution of higher education and a renowned historically black university. It has a long history of successful alumni and its influence reaches across this country. This basketball team's achievement will bring some much-deserved national attention to the university, its stellar academic record, its dedicated student body, and, of course, its strong athletic program.

I have the privilege of representing UAPB in the U.S. House of Representatives and stand even prouder today on this historic win. I wish them the best of luck on their Friday game against Duke.

Today, I encourage all my colleagues to help me congratulate this deserving team and all of our young men and women in college athletics who represent our Nation's next generation of leaders, many of whom may one day walk these very halls in Congress.

GOOD IDEA FROM KANSAS BENEFITS PUBLIC SAFETY NATION-WIDE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, sometimes good things come from the darkest, most difficult moments. I rise today to share one such story.

In the summer of 2002, a promising young lady named Ali Kemp came home for the summer after her freshman year at Kansas State University.

Ali had a summer job at a neighborhood pool in Leawood, but one day she didn't come home. Her father, Roger Kemp, found her body in the pump room at the pool; she had been attacked and strangled.

John Walsh of America's Most Wanted, who lost his son Adam at age six to crime, tells us that "closure" is fleeting or non-existent. Mr. Walsh calls Roger Kemp one of his heroes.

Roger Kemp—like John Walsh—has honored his child's memory by working to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

First, the Ali Kemp Foundation has sponsored self-defense training for thousands of women. Some have put their training to use, fending off attacks.

Second, Roger Kemp encouraged law enforcement to try a new idea, to display "wanted" information on billboards. It worked in the Ali Kemp case, producing a tip that led to an arrest in 2004 and later a conviction.

Roger Kemp figured that this tactic could be broadly applied to help law enforcement. He was right. Now, billboards are a tool for police at all levels.

Police in Kansas say billboards are an asset to public safety. The FBI is using donated high-tech digital billboards coast to coast, even in Times Square. U.S. Marshals report dramatic results.

Lamar Advertising in Kansas has teamed up with Crime Stoppers to provide the service free of charge. Bob Fessler with the company said, "It goes back to the old days, to Western days, when they put posters up for wanted people. It's the same concept. We hope something happens quickly."

To that analysis, I would add that effective modern "wanted" billboards are also the legacy of a special man from Kansas who is doing his part to make Kansans safer.

PREVENT ALL CIGARETTE TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 1147. While I acknowledge the importance of curbing underage smoking and respect this bill's intent to prevent funding of terrorist groups, I believe the bill threatens the government-to-government relationship with Native American tribes set out by our founders in the U.S. Constitution.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with Indian tribes. However, this bill would open the door to allowing States to bring felony charges against tribes and tribal businesses who participate in tribe-to-tribe transactions.

Two of the tribes I have the honor of representing, the Rosebud Sioux and Yankton Sioux, have contacted me with their concerns. They also do not object to this bill and support reducing cigarette trafficking. They simply ask that the bill be amended so that tribal sovereignty, recognized through hundreds of treaties and reaffirmed through executive orders, judicial decisions, and congressional action, not be encroached.

I urge this body to respect tribal sovereignty and it is for this reason I could not support this bill today.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIAMI DEPARTMENT OF FIRE RESCUE'S URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to thank and recognize the City of Miami Department of Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Florida Task Force 2 ("USAR Team"), for their humanitarian efforts during the Haiti earthquake crisis. I commend them for their immediate response to those affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010.

The City of Miami Department of Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue Team was deployed to Haiti after the devastating earthquake hit the island approximately 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince. The USAR Team conducted successful search and rescue operations while in Haiti.

The USAR Team is capable of conducting the following type of operations: conducting physical search and rescue operations in damaged/collapsed structures, flooded areas, and transportation accident scenes; providing emergency medical care at disaster sites for trapped victims; carrying out reconnaissance duties to assess damage and determine needs in order to provide feedback to all agencies involved; providing disaster communication support using state of the art satellite systems; conducting hazardous materials surveys/evaluations of affected areas; and assisting in stabilizing damaged structures, including sorting and cribbing operations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the City of Miami Department of Fire Rescue's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Florida Task Force 2 ("USAR Team") for their unyielding determination and work as first responders to victims of disasters from all hazards. The work of the USAR Team is an important part of South Florida's contribution to the recovery of Haiti. I offer my sincere gratitude for their selfless dedication to this cause.

HONORING ROBERT LARSON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor my friend Robert Larson and pay tribute to his life and legacy.

Robert Larson was a real estate executive, philanthropist, community leader, and dear friend. His keen knowledge and distinguished career positioned him as one of the industry's most respected executives. He was chairman of the Larson Realty Group, a family-owned real estate investment company; chairman of Lazard Real Estate Partners LLC, a merchant banking business; and chairman of the board of UDR, Inc., one of the country's largest real estate companies. He spent 26 years with the prestigious Taubman Company, where he was elevated to chief operating officer, chief executive officer, vice chairman of Taubman Centers, Inc., and chairman of the Taubman Realty Group during the course of his tenure.

The knowledge and insight Mr. Larson provided the Federal Government in the wake of the Savings and Loan crisis of the 1980s were integral to successfully restructuring our savings institutions and recovering from the crisis. President Bush and President Clinton appointed Mr. Larson to the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, where he served from 1990 to 1995 and was made chairman of the Board's Audit Committee. The Board was established by Congress to provide direction, oversight, and funding to the Resolution Trust Corporation.

Throughout his life, Mr. Larson's commitment to southeast Michigan was unyielding and he worked to bring new investment and opportunity to Michigan's economy. His contributions to Michigan extended far beyond the real estate industry: he served as the director and chairman of the ULI Foundation, a trustee of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, director of the Detroit Zoological Society, chairman of the Cranbrook Educational Community, chairman of the Greening of Detroit, and trustee of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, among many other boards and causes.

Unquestionably, though, Mr. Larson's most durable impact was on his family, his colleagues, and those of us who knew him. We remember him for his profound intellect, his endless energy, and his tremendous warmth. He is survived by his beloved wife, Bonnie, their six children, and eleven grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to them on their loss.

HONORING DAVID THOMPSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. David Thompson, recipient of the Harford County Land Preservationist of the Year award. Thompson is one of Harford County's strongest advocates for the preservation of farmland.

Thompson's interest in horticulture began with his family's vegetable and flower garden.

In 1978, he and his wife, Marilyn, founded a local nursery, which has since grown into one of the region's most respected nursery and landscaping enterprises.

Thompson's leadership in the horticulture community is unprecedented. He is a past president of the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, the American Conifer Society, and the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. Thompson recently stepped down from the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board, after many years of faithful service, including terms as Chairman. During his time on the Board, Thompson worked with the County Executive and the County Council to increase the property tax credit for preserved farmland. In 2009, Thompson was named a Master Farmer by the American Agriculturist magazine, becoming only the 48th Marylander to receive this honor.

Thompson strives to promote the green industry and horticulture education in Maryland. He has been an active leader in the development of the Agriculture and Natural Resources program at North Harford High and is a member of the University of Maryland Horticulture Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. David Thompson, Harford County Land Preservationist of the Year. His exceptional advocacy and endeavor to educate others on behalf of the horticulture community is unparalleled.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, despite the unquestionable need for health care reform, some have sought to dominate the health care reform discussion with fear mongering, misinterpretations and misinformation. They have stymied the progression of the reform process in the name of fiscal responsibility, bipartisanship, parliamentary procedure and patriotism.

These justifications are egregious. There is nothing bipartisan about continually opposing a bill that independent federal agencies have repeatedly recognized as a substantive and reasonable approach to reform. There is nothing fiscally responsible about allowing premiums, state and federal health expenditures to rise to unprecedented levels. There is nothing American about depriving men, women, and children of the guaranteed right to health care in the richest country on earth.

Today, when Americans across the country are losing their homes, jobs, health insurance and hope, we as elected officials have the opportunity and duty to deliver. We cannot afford to back down. We have come too far and have too much to lose. Extreme times require extreme measures to ensure that we pass a health care reform bill that America needs and deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I unfortunately was absent from a vote in the House.

Without question, in order to put our economy back on track, we must work aggressively to address and lower our national debt. H.R. 4825, introduced by Representatives KIRKPATRICK and PETERS, takes an important step in showing Congress' commitment to addressing the growing problem of our country's debt. By returning unused funds from our Member Representational Allowance to the U.S. Treasury, as many offices already do, we show the American people our willingness to tighten our belts, beginning with our office budgets.

I wish to voice my full support for this important legislation and regret that I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING NEW MOUNT MORIAH INTERNATIONAL CHURCH'S 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and congregation of New Mount Moriah International Church for celebrating 21 years of fellowship. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize New Mount Moriah, its leader Bishop William Murphy and its congregants on this most joyous occasion.

New Mount Moriah, for the past 21 years, has been a fixture of spiritual communion in the Pontiac, Michigan community. The Church has had several homes in the Pontiac community since its formation in 1989. Since moving to its current location in 2003, New Mount Moriah has made great strides to expand its ministry across southeast Michigan, establishing satellite locations in Mount Clemens and Detroit. With these new locations New Mount Moriah has expanded its membership from the 100 founding members in 1989 to over 1,000 members across southeast Michigan today.

Over the past 20 years, New Mount Moriah has been served by Bishop William Murphy who serves with unwavering commitment and faith as Senior Pastor to its congregants. Bishop Murphy is joined in his ministry by his wife, Donna, who serves as Executive Director for New Mount Moriah's Women's Ministry program. Together they have developed countless programs which have reached beyond the walls of the Church and have touched the lives of so many in the communities the Church serves. These programs include skill-building and self-esteem training for women of all ages, helping them to develop leadership skills needed to serve their community.

For many years it has been my privilege to worship with Bishop and Donna Murphy and

the congregants of New Mount Moriah. It is with a great sense of pride I have watched as the Church has expanded its reach into our shared communities and enriched the lives of an increasing number of residents across southeast Michigan. This year I was particularly blessed to visit New Mount Moriah with the Majority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, JAMES CLYBURN, to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the one-year anniversary of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of these United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing New Mount Moriah International Church's 21 years of service to Pontiac and countless other communities across southeast Michigan and wish Bishop Murphy, his wife and the Church's congregants many more years of happiness, health and service to our shared communities.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND THE SHE SERVES INITIATIVE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and the She Serves Initiative.

The mission of the VFW is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

For centuries, the VFW and its auxiliaries, including the She Serves Initiative, have been serving veterans by giving them a place to address their concerns and providing moral support. The She Serves Initiative works to empower, encourage, and appreciate all women who have served in the military.

Through outreach within the community, She Serves works to educate others about the sacrifices of female veterans who have served faithfully in conflict overseas. The She Serves Initiative acts as the connecting point for women of the VFW.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the VFW and the She Serves Initiative for their outstanding presence within the community. The support these two organizations provide to our Nation's veterans is essential and greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. CASSIDY, JR.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has given his life's work over in service to his country. A man who has honorably served the United States, both in uniform and out, in both the public and the private sectors, and who in my mind exemplifies duty and excellence. A man who is now taking a long deferred and well deserved retirement. Madam Speaker, Thomas J.

Cassidy, Jr. has come a long way from his days growing up in the Bronx. He served in the Navy, rising to the rank of Rear Admiral. During his career, he served 34 years, seeing action in the Vietnam War as the Commander of Fighter Squadron 161 aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Coral Sea*. He later took command of Miramar Naval Air Station, as well as command of the Pacific Fleet Fighter and Airborne Early Warning Wing.

During all this time, Admiral Tom Cassidy developed a reputation as a thorough and fully dedicated Naval Officer, that Bronx upbringing never being too far below the surface. He pushed himself to the limit, gaining extensive experience flying a wide variety of American and foreign aircraft. In fact, he developed air-to-air improved fighter tactics that the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force fighter pilots used to dramatically improve the kill ratio over the North Vietnamese Air Force MiGs. He did this by flying the MiG 21 and 17 to exploit their weaknesses. This in turn led to a number of staff jobs from a carrier group to a stint with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With a reputation as a man with an eye for detail and a no nonsense approach to getting the job done, Admiral Cassidy was made the Chief of Naval Operations', CNO, liaison officer to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was Director of the Tactical Readiness Division of the CNO's staff.

Madam Speaker, a resume like this speaks volumes, and would lead you to believe that Admiral Tom Cassidy had more than done his bit for "king and country." No one could dispute that Tom had served the American people well and that he had earned a place in the esteem of his countrymen. And so after a long and distinguished career, Tom retired from the Navy.

However, while Admiral Cassidy may have left the Navy, in a very real sense the Navy never left him. Devotion to duty and hard work. A commitment to excellence and a "can-do" spirit. Love of family, God and country. Valor in the face of danger and hardship, and most of all, a firm and unswerving loyalty to his men. All these qualities that we so instantly and rightly attribute to the men and women of the Navy, and not just the Navy but all the Armed Forces, were deeply engrained in Admiral Cassidy.

It was that Navy spirit that Tom took with him into the private sector, where he accepted a position as CEO of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, and where he has become a pioneer in the development of some of the most important and revolutionary weapons in America's arsenal for the war on terrorism.

Madam Speaker, Admiral Tom Cassidy made the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Were it not for Tom, after September 11 the United States would not have had in its armory one of the key weapons with which we began the long hard fight to free Afghanistan, Iraq, the Swat valley and so many other parts of the Middle East and Central and South Asia.

At a time when there were grave doubts in the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense about the efficacy and necessity of UAVs like the Predator, Admiral Cassidy took a gamble. Operating by what Aviation Week magazine has rightly referred to as the "build it and they will come" strategy—Tom Cassidy pushed the development and building of Predators ahead of orders from the United States Government.

Consequently, Madam Speaker, when on that terrible day in September of 2001, Americans came face to face with the unrelenting hatred and resourcefulness of our radical Islamist opponents, we can thank Admiral Tom Cassidy that the United States was able to have at the ready one of the critical weapons systems with which we have been able to bring the war to our enemies and to drive them out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is a weapon that, Madam Speaker, continues to serve us well today. The Predator has gone through no less than three developmental iterations thanks to the hard work of Tom Cassidy. Each new evolution in the Predator has radically improved our ability to strike against the shadowy adversary that we now face.

The Predator, Madam Speaker, will soon have attained over a million cumulative flight hours. How many of the enemy has it taken out? How many lives of our service men and women have been saved by the use of the Predator? How many terrorist attacks against the United States and our allies have been averted thanks to the unique surveillance and offensive weapons capabilities of the Predator? How many people have a chance at freedom because the Predator was able to strike against those who preach a savage perversion of a religion?

There is probably no real way to count it accurately. Still, we know that lives have been saved and terrorist attacks have been averted and people who were once enslaved are now free because Predator was in America's arsenal. For that, Madam Speaker, this Congress and this country and people the world over owe Admiral Tom Cassidy a debt of gratitude of which they are scarcely aware. That is why I am privileged to be able to say these few words of thanks.

So Madam Speaker, Tom Cassidy will retire now. He will end the long days of hard work and get to spend time with the wife and family that he loves, secure in the knowledge that he has done all that could reasonably be asked of one man to protect his country from those who threaten it.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that nothing would please Tom Cassidy more than to know that his work has helped our nation face many of the most challenging threats to our security. I am convinced that the strength of character, dedication to duty and love of family and of country that are the hallmarks of Admiral Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr.'s life will long endure. I congratulate him on a job well done that has spanned both careers, the U.S. Navy and his tenure as the head of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems. On behalf of the American people I thank him, and I wish him many happy years ahead.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRED E. ALLEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a man who has dedicated his life to service and a greater cause, Fred E. Allen of Mt. Pleasant, TX.

Mr. Allen has been an outstanding citizen and patriot throughout his life. Much of his energy has been directed through the noble organization of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which has played an important role in the history of this nation since its founding. Many influential Americans have been members of the Masons, including Presidents, Members of Congress, Justices, and Governors, and their ranks have included scientists, engineers, doctors, lawyers, entertainers, clergy, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and pioneers—basically all walks of life.

In October of 2009 Mr. Allen was honored with The Grand Cross by the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. This is the highest individual honor that The Supreme Council bestows. It is a rare honorary degree that is bestowed on Thirty-third Degree Masons, and is awarded only for the most exceptional and extraordinary services. Mr. Allen is one of those exceptional Masons, a man who, in the words of the philosopher Jeremy Benson, sought "the greatest good for the greatest number."

It is a privilege to pay tribute to such an honorable and devoted citizen in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of this great American, Fred Allen.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,639,779,478,641.89.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,001,353,732,348.09 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

SERGEANT CANDICE BRIESE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Sergeant Candice Briese on the occasion of her retirement from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and to recognize her contributions to the community for over three decades.

Sergeant Briese is a native of Galt, Missouri, but a lifelong resident of southern California. She has been a committed public servant with a professional career worthy of mention. Her extensive achievements and experience in law enforcement and security established her as a leader in community safety. Sergeant Briese served as a Deputy Sheriff in the Sybil Brand Institute, Lakewood Sheriff's Station, and Employee Support Services. As a Deputy Sheriff, she devoted her time and ef-

fort to ensuring safety in prisons, enforcing the law, and helping her department members through counseling and peer support.

Sergeant Briese has been a model public servant who always rises to meet challenges and never allows an obstacle to stop her in her efforts to improve the community. She served as a sergeant in the Men's Central Jail and in the notorious Twin Towers Correctional Facility. She has served with great dedication in various courts in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Inglewood, and Van Nuys.

While Sergeant Briese was serving at the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, she received a commendation from Sheriff Sherman Block for her heroic actions that saved the lives of five infants. She is known not only for her professionalism on the job, but also for her generous and compassionate nature. She was the leading force behind efforts to teach inmates how to read in the Biscailuz Recovery Center.

In addition to being a hardworking law enforcement officer, Sergeant Briese is also a wife and the mother of three successful children. I know that her husband, Glenn Jorritsma, and her children, Beu Alan Briese, Cara Bethanie Briese, and Ted Dustin Briese, are proud of her service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sergeant Candice Briese, for her distinguished service and outstanding commitment to our society.

CHARLIE WILSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize a former Member of Congress who represented the 2nd Congressional District of Texas which I represent. While the 2nd Congressional District has changed in shape over the years, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a unique Texan who served his constituents and country well during his 24 years in the House of Representatives.

Charlie Wilson served 12 terms (1973–1997) in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was well known for his personality as big as Texas and is perhaps best known for his work to covertly direct billions of U.S. dollars in arms to Afghan rebels who were fighting the Soviets through his position on the House Appropriations Committee.

One of my favorite stories about Charlie Wilson is the story when as a young boy of 13 and living in Trinity, Texas, his dog Teddy got into the neighbor's yard. The neighbor, city official Charles Hazard, retaliated by mixing crushed glass into the dog's food. The dog died from internal bleeding. In response, Charlie decided to run for office against him in the next election. Charlie won by driving 96 voters from poor neighborhoods to the polls. Before they left the car, Charlie told them what Mr. Hazard had done to his dog Teddy. Charlie Wilson won that race by a margin of only 16 votes. This election started his political career.

Perhaps this event explains why he always fought for the underdog later in life. His efforts of aiding Afghans rebels with appropriate weaponry and machinery and in advocating for humanitarian aid were successful in help-

ing to defeat the Soviet Union and in bringing the Cold War to a close. He was also a tireless advocate for Texas in Washington, DC and helped bring business and industry to his district and State.

Charlie Wilson passed on February 10, 2010 in Lufkin, Texas, from a cardiopulmonary arrest. We are grateful for his service in the second congressional district of Texas and for his tireless efforts to advance freedom in Afghanistan and throughout the world. His death is a loss to Texas, and to our Nation.

HONORING MR. DAVID HOPKINS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. David Hopkins, recipient of the Harford County Agricultural Pioneer Award. Hopkins owns and operates a local produce stand, providing Harford Countians with fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Hopkins, a third generation farmer, was introduced to the direct-to-consumer produce business in the 1970s, when he and his brother worked for a local produce stand. In the 1980s when that stand closed, the Hopkins family began to sell produce from their farm. With the determination of Hopkins, his family produce stand flourished and the Hopkins family was able to build a pavilion to house the stand. In 2004, the produce stand was so successful they were able to sell the dairy cows.

In 2009, Hopkins assisted with Harford County's "Buy Local" campaign by allowing the Division of Agriculture to have its logo and slogan painted on the side of his barn. Hopkins continues to operate his stand with the help of his family, including his brother Daniel and son Aaron, who is continuing the family's farming legacy by studying Agriculture at the University of Delaware.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. David Hopkins, Harford County's Agricultural Pioneer of the year. The achievements of Mr. Hopkins produce stand should be a model to local businesses within Harford County.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. A.J. O'NEILL'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S BIG 3 AUTOMAKERS, THEIR EMPLOYEES, AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SUPPORT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. A.J. O'Neill, a Berkley native and Royal Oak resident, for his community activism dedicated to highlighting the importance of our domestic automotive manufacturing industry to our economy and communities. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mr. O'Neill, today as he prepares to hold the 2nd Annual "Assembly Line Concert" at his café to support our

American Big 3 Automakers and their employees.

On April 1st of 2007, Mr. O'Neill opened his café in downtown Ferndale. From day one, Mr. O'Neill made a commitment to his community to do what he could to make Southeast Michigan a better place.

In late fall of 2008, during the Auto crisis, Mr. O'Neill started the "I Pledge America" campaign. The pledge is simple, "I promise America that, on my honor, when I buy a new vehicle, it will be a Detroit-born, Big Three (Ford, GM or Chrysler) automobile." I am proud to count myself among the over ten thousand signatories to this pledge.

After seeing the success of the "I Pledge America" campaign, Mr. O'Neill was inspired to do more. Starting on March 20th, 2009, and continuing 24 hours a day 7 days a week until April 1st, 2009, Mr. O'Neill hosted the first annual "Assembly Line Concert." The concert was a 288 hour marathon, featuring over 300 bands performing in honor and support of the domestic auto industry, with proceeds donated to the families of laid off auto workers. Due to the incredible success and length of this concert, Mr. O'Neill established a new Guinness World Record for the "longest continuous music concert by multiple artists."

Today represents the start of a new chapter in Mr. O'Neill's story as he hosts the "Second Annual Assembly Line Concert." This concert will exhibit 312 hours of continuous music performed by well over 300 bands and musical artists. Mr. O'Neill is poised to break his own Guinness record for the longest continuous music concert, with proceeds once again going to the families of struggling auto workers in Southeast Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. A.J. O'Neill's dedication to the domestic auto industry, its tens of thousands of employees and retirees and the communities of Southeast Michigan as we work to rebuild and revitalize Michigan together.

CONGRATULATING DAVID KENNEY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. David Kenney. Recently, both David and his business, Westrux International Inc., were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

David's business, Westrux International, Inc., consists of six dealer locations employing 213 people. Westrux International, Inc., has

now earned the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 13 times. David's dealership is also a multi-year winner of the IdealGold Award for Excellence, awarded to "IdealLease affiliates dedicated to success in the lease and rental industry."

These awards are a testament to Dave's reputation as a leader in the trucking industry through many years of hard work in the industry and service to his community. His leadership in the trucking industry is evident by his serving as chairman of the International Dealer Council and has also chaired the Parts Dealer Advisory Board. In his community, he is a member of a leadership coaching group, Vistage International. Additionally, Dave sits on St. Mary's College of California's School of Economics and Business Administration Advisory Board. Dave is also a devoted husband to his wife Jill, and father to four children.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating David Kenney for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community, the State of California, and our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Friday, March 12, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I request that the RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 109 (on passage of H.R. 3650), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 110 (on approving the journal), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 111 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4506, as amended).

CONGRATULATING ED KYRISH

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Ed Kyrish. Recently, both Ed and his business, Texas Truck Centers of Houston, Ltd., were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Family owned and operated since 1988, Texas Truck Centers of Houston, Ltd., is one of the premier truck dealerships in the country. Ed's business employs 264 people at five

dealer locations. In January of 2010, Ed and the International Truck community celebrated his 60th year of service to International. Ed and Texas Truck Centers have earned the Circle of Excellence Award 13 times.

The many awards that Ed and Texas Truck Centers earn are a testament to his reputation as a leader in the trucking industry. Ed serves as a member of the Parts Advisory Board of International's dealer organization. Ed has also been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from International. Additionally, Ed has been recognized as an ADT Dealer of the Year.

Ed is also dedicated to his community. He co-founded the Richland Youth Organization's Girl's Softball League, served as softball league and Little League manager, and served as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America. Ed also is a devoted member of his school board and its fundraising committee, is a supporter of its Adopt A Family initiative, and is the chairman of his church board.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ed Kyrish for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community.

CONGRATULATING BLAINE ROBERTS

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Blaine Roberts. Recently, both Blaine and his business, Roberts Truck Center, were awarded the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

Awarded by Navistar, Inc., the Circle of Excellence is given to dealerships that achieve the highest level of performance in terms of operating and financial standards, market representation, and, most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor that an International dealer can receive from Navistar.

Roberts Truck Center has grown into one of the premier truck dealerships in the Southwest. Blaine manages 8 of the 13 dealer locations that are part of the Roberts Truck Center family business, owned by Blaine and his brother Blair. The Roberts Truck Center employs 467 people and has earned the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 26 times.

Blaine has earned this recognition and accomplishment through years of hard work and being a dedicated servant of his community. He is committed to his industry and serves on a number of industry groups and boards including the International Dealer Development and Systems Board.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Blaine for his accomplishments, his record of success, and his many contributions to his community.